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CAN A DRINKING NATION WIN AGAINST A SOBER NATION?

The time has come for the people of the U.S. to appraise the liquor industry in relation to its effect upon the prosecution of the war and its probable effect upon victory. There is good evidence that the liquor people are becoming alarmed over the trend of public opinion with reference to their business. Recently "Repeal Associates, Inc.," featuring such old time enemies of prohibition as Pierre S. DuPont and others, has been sending out releases attempting to show that the American army is the soberest army in our history and that those who allege bad conditions are slurring American manhood. On September 8, the Kentucky Committee of the Brewing Industry Foundation published a display advertisement in the Louisville Courier-Journal entitled, "Not in Kentucky, Adolph!" in which an attempt was made to connect the growing demand for prohibition with Hitler propaganda. A "prominent national magazine" was quoted as authority for the statement that German broadcasts were using stories of growing prohibition demand in the U.S. to prove that we are divided. The Kentucky Committee slyly labels opposition to liquor an "imported" prohibition campaign, and assures Hitler that it will fail. Thus the Kentucky Committee attempts to "smear" those who oppose liquor as agents and tools of Hitler! Hitler says the American people are growing dissatisfied with the antics of brewers and distillers in war-time. That, says Hitler, proves that the American people are divided. And that, says the Kentucky Committee of the Brewing Industry Foundation, proves that drys are agents and tools of Hitler! The brewers must be alarmed indeed to resort to such tactics.

In the meantime concern over the increasing consumption of liquor will not down. In a recent issue of Social Action Newsletter (July-August) Internal Revenue figures were cited to show that per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages in Washington, D.C. amounted to 4.26 gallons. When it is considered that thousands of Washingtonians never touch liquor, it will be apparent that the per capita consumption of those who do the drinking must be much higher than 4.26 gallons. Concern over the amount of alcoholic beverages consumed in the nation's capitol is justified. Washington is today the nerve center of the Allied war effort. How can people have confidence in the ability and capacity of its leaders when they know that their lives are lived and their work is done in a city where the liquor consumption is the greatest in the nation? Union Signal reports that Thomas E. Lodge, chairman of the District (continued on page 4)

THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY STILL LIVES IN FRANCE

The spirit of the French Revolution is not dead! That Frenchmen have not yielded to the bitter tyranny of Nazi persecution is proved by stories that continue to escape the strict censorship that attempts to make Europe a continent of mystery and silence. One of the latest reports coming from within that land reveals that three-times Premier Edouard Herriot, 70, President of the Chamber of Deputies which was dissolved after Petain took over, and Jules Jeanneney, 78, President of the dissolved Senate, have sent a joint letter to Marshal Petain and Pierre Laval, in which they warned against the 'foolish mistake' of believing that they could win either the adhesion or the heart of France in a war against 'our allies.' The two statesmen charged, "You have substituted unlimited dictatorship for guarantees that all civilized nations grant to accused persons.... Everywhere you have abolished the principle of elective representation.... You have wiped out general councils that reflected the wisdom of your own choice.... It is impossible for liberty to die in the land of its birth, from which it spread all over the world." Characterized by Time (Sept. 21) as "Bids for the Pantheon," these two representatives of the Third Republic rise to the stature of the heroes of the Revolution. It is safe to predict that the Herriot-Jeanneney letter will go down in the pages of history as one of the masterpieces of man's struggle for liberty.

Meantime, matters do not go well for Laval in other respects. United Nations Religious News reveals that Laval's decree forbidding the reading of pastoral protests against deportation of Jews has brought about the arrest of numerous priests who preferred to obey their bishops rather than the head of the government. The Catholic military governor of Lyons refused to cooperate or allow his troops to be used in the mass arrest of Jews and was dismissed by Laval. All over France, Catholics are supporting Cardinal Gerlier in refusing to hand over Jewish children, sheltering them and feeding them instead. Certain Jesuit priests flatly refused to hand over Jewish children in their care and kept them hidden in the buildings of their Order until Vichy, under Nazi pressure, demanded their surrender. The priests in the meantime had found other hiding places for the children and the police could do nothing about it except to arrest eight priests. A protest to Petain in the name of the Pope was ordered suppressed, but it was read just the same. In the past two months 120 parish priests from North Muerthe and Moselle have been deported to an "unknown destination."

The British Council of Churches was formally launched in London during the week of September 20, according to a news release of the Religious News Service. The new council consolidates the work of three agencies, the Council on Christian Faith and Common Life, the Commission of the Churches for International Friendship and Social Responsibility, and the British section of the World Conference on Faith and Order. Membership on the Council will consist of more than one hundred leaders representing the Church of England, the Free (Protestant) Churches, the Church of Scotland, and other religious groups.

The British Council of Churches was inaugurated with a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral, at which Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of the Church of England, preached the sermon, stressing the need for a clear and united testimony to Christianity at a time when its basic principles are widely challenged and, in many quarters, expressly repudiated. The organization of the British Council of Churches can be definitely related to the development of the World Council of Churches.

LEWD PUBLICATIONS BARRED

On September 20, United Press carried a dispatch under a Washington date-line containing an announcement by the Post Office Department that The National Police Gazette, known since the gay nineties for its daring and suggestive pictures and reading matter has been banned from the mails for publishing "lewd and lascivious" materials. The action was based on pictures and stories alleged to have been published nearly a year ago and the ban was announced when the publisher failed to show cause why the magazine should not be deprived of its second-class mailing privileges.

On the same date Paul Moss, New York City license commissioner, announced that six other magazines declared unavailable by the Post Office Department would be barred from New York newsstands. The publications outlawed are, Tru-Life Detective Cases, Sensational Detective Cases, Rare Detective Cases, Snap, and Laff.

On September 27, the American Civil Liberties Union protested to the Post Office Department its action in revoking the second-class mailing privileges of a number of magazines on the charge of obscenity, referring to the report of the Attorney General's committee, which in 1940 held that "obscenity is largely a question of judgment which often may require a broad sociological expertness." Alleging that something like 40 publications have been banned in the last four months, including such magazines as College Humor, Film Fun, Real Screen Fun, Real Detective, and Front Page Detective, the Civil Liberties Union charged that action was inspired by the National Organization for Decent Literature, a Roman Catholic organization headed by Bishop John F. Noll, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The action of the American Civil Liberties Union was based on opposition to allowing any organization to determine for the nation as a whole what ought to be read and what ought to be suppressed.

These days the Church is undergoing persecution throughout the world. As the fires of persecution grow hotter differences between sects and creeds disappear and the Church Universal begins again to become conscious of itself. German and Norwegian Lutherans, French Catholics, Russian Orthodox, Japanese and Chinese Christians appear as Christian brethren, capable of the same heroic sacrifices for the faith that marked the saints and martyrs of old.

On page 1 of this issue will be found reference to the heroic actions of French Catholics on behalf of Jews whose deportation was decreed by Laval in obedience to Hitler's command. Time (Sept. 21,) quotes from a pastoral letter from the semi-paralyzed Archbishop of Toulouse to his parish priests:

"There is a Christian morality, there is a human morality, that impose duties and confer rights. These duties and these rights derive from the very nature of man. They may be violated. No mortal has power to suppress them. That children, women, men, fathers, mothers should be treated as a wretched herd, that members of the same family should be separated from one another and embarked for unknown destinations, was a sad spectacle reserved for our times to see.... These Jews are men; these Jewesses are women.... They belong to mankind. They are our brethren as are so many others. No Christian can forget that...." Here spoke the spirit of Christ. Here spoke the spirit of liberty, freedom, of the Declaration of the Rights of Man, of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, inspired by Christian concern for human personality.

In Poland it is estimated that 800 priests have been executed without trial or tortured to death by the Gestapo and that 3000 priests are now in concentration camps. In the Polish city of Poznan only 3 of the 77 churches and chapels are open and 7 whole dioceses have been liquidated. It is reported that a wholesale massacre of the clergy of Poznan and Pomerania was carried out with the utmost savagery, some of the victims being buried while they still gave signs of life. Similar treatment has been meted out to the Protestant minority and to Polish Jews, according to United Nations Religious News.

In Belgium, reports say, the chief effort of the Nazis is to stop all religious activities except actual celebration of the Mass. In Luxembourg priests are compelled to collect a special "worship tax." All church property has been confiscated and all monks and nuns expelled from the country. Attacks on the churches in Holland, both Protestant and Catholic, have been milder than elsewhere, taking the form of out-lawing various secular activities and printing of sneering comments by the Nazi press. In Norway the efforts of Vidkun Quisling, puppet dictator, have come to naught and Bishop Berggrav has been released. Faced with a complete revolt, Quisling decided that the religious issue was "too insignificant" for further effort. Thus the tyrants break themselves on the rock of the people's faith.

On September 22, the Speaker of the House announced that the required number of signatures of Members of Congress (218) had been attached to the discharge petition to take the Geyer anti-poll tax Bill out of the hands of the committee and bring it before the House for a vote. The Bill was introduced on January 3, 1941, by Representative Geyer of California, now deceased. The Bill was buried in committee, but under the discharge petition it can now be called up for action on the 2nd or 4th Monday of any month by any signer after 7 days have elapsed following the obtaining of the required number of signatures. The Bill, which would make it illegal to require the payment of a poll tax for the right to vote for Presidential electors, Senators, or national Representatives, received an impetus during the recent debate over a clause in the soldier's voting bill eliminating poll tax receipts as a prerequisite for voting. If the Bill becomes a law it will almost certainly break up the political oligarchy that obtains in the eight poll tax states, many of whose Senators and Representatives hold office by the votes of not more than 10 or 12 per cent of the potential electors in their states and districts.

On September 23, the Maritime Commission announced that the new 10,000 ton Liberty freighter Booker T. Washington, soon to be launched will be placed under command of Captain Hugh Mulzac, the only American Negro who holds a master's certificate. The ship is now on the ways of the California Shipbuilding Company. The crew will be made up of both white and Negro officers.

The Mexican Labor News (Aug. 11, 1942), published by the Press Department of the Workers University of Mexico, Mexico City, D.F., reports that an agreement has been entered into between the government of Mexico and the government of the U.S. covering Mexican agricultural laborers brought into the U.S. to relieve farm labor shortage. The agreement provides for a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour, living quarters and board, sanitary care and medical services, and insurance covering accidents while at work. The agreement also provides that children of workers shall be provided with school facilities and for the payment of indemnities in event the term of employment stipulated in a particular contract is not carried out. No report of this agreement has been published in the American press. If adhered to this program will greatly improve the lot of Mexican workers brought into the cotton, wheat, and beet fields of the U.S. The Mexican government will undertake to provide means whereby part of their earnings can be saved for investment in farm machinery which they can use on their return on land to be furnished by the government.

The Church Committee on China Relief raised and sent to China last year an average of \$66,000 per month. This year the administrative committee in China is asking for \$100,000 per month. The funds are administered almost entirely by missionaries and Chinese Christian leaders, among whom is Mme. Chiang Kai-shek. Of the 129 hospitals aided - the only civilian hospitals in Free China - 113 are under mission auspices. The work is approved by the committee on Foreign Relief Appeals.

CHICAGO SURVEY SHOWS CHILD DELINQUENCY GROWING

A careful study of 23,000 cases of boys and girls in various parts of Chicago, covering three years of work by 200 investigators, shows that juvenile delinquency has become a "terrific problem," particularly in the blighted areas which surround the down-town district and in the industrial areas, according to Dr. Ernest W. Burgess, of the University of Chicago, chairman of the committee that directed the survey.

In a story by Associated Press dated September 23, Dr. Burgess is quoted as saying that street loafing and radio crime dramas figure largely among the causes of juvenile misconduct discovered by the committee. Of this phase of the problem, Dr. Burgess is quoted as saying:

"For instance, our survey showed 2900 boys between 10 and 17 years old living on the lower north side. Of these, 850, or 29 per cent were known as delinquents and 511 had records in the police department of the Juvenile Court. It is significant that 92 per cent of these children made the street their loafing place or playground. Activities ranged from street ball playing to crap games and rowdyism. Not one in five was engaged in supervised recreation in any known center."

With reference to the effect of radio crime dramas on juvenile crime. Dr. Burgess said:

"In all neighborhoods with high delinquency rates, children were particularly fond of radio crime stories, while in the lower delinquency sections children turned to the comedian and variety hour programs in preference."

Under the same date the Associated Press carried a story from the Children's Aid Society in New York stating that the 14 per cent increase in cases handled by the Children's Court in the first six months of 1942 is due in part to the fact that inexperienced and untrained youngsters are earning high wages and thus come to have an exaggerated sense of their own importance. Attention was also given to the fact that abnormal home life occasioned by the war has affected the life of the young adversely. Dr. Alexander Reid Martin, consulting psychiatrist, asserted that the wartime atmosphere has brought about restlessness, insecurity, and emotional instability. "It is not so much new problems," he said, "but an intensification of old problems connected with broken homes, absence of older brothers and fathers, the sudden increase of responsibilities and demands upon unprepared younger children, especially with more children left at home alone with mothers and fathers away."

The experience of Chicago and New York parallels the experience of other localities, including Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Canada, Britain, and other places, where reports indicate alarming increases of juvenile crimes of all sorts. This is a part of the price we pay for war. With almost the whole thought of the nation turned to war, and with our children hearing every day of young men who are being hailed as heroes for violent deeds, we should not be surprised when children follow the example set for them.

Can a Drinking Nation Win (continued from page 1)
Alcoholic Beverage Board, admitted that the figures "would seem to indicate" that liquor consumption in Washington is greater than in any comparable area in the United States. Commissioner John Russell Young disclosed that city heads are worrying about dives that call themselves clubs and open up after other liquor selling places close.

For a number of years Washington has had an unsavory reputation for crime, especially for crimes of the heinous type. Wilbur LaRoe, Jr., a member of the Board of Parole and chairman of the committee on law enforcement of the Washington Federation of Churches, writing in the July 1942, issue of The Voice, organ of the Board of Temperance of the Methodist Church, said,

"For years I have heard vague and general statements about the relation of liquor to crime. Recently, as a member of the Board of Parole, I have had an opportunity to study many individual felony cases. The more I study them the more I am convinced that liquor is a prolific cause of crime. In order to determine with some definiteness the number of cases in which liquor plays a part I have selected at random 625 felony cases which came before the Board of Parole. In 146 of these cases, or 23.4 per cent, liquor was involved in the sense that the defendant was under the influence of liquor when the crime was committed or had been convicted of intoxication. My study convinces me, and I believe that it will convince the public, that liquor is making a tremendous contribution to serious crime in the nation's capitol, being responsible for nearly one-fourth of the felonies. Study further shows that many of our felonies are committed by men who have been convicted many times of drunkenness. The only conclusion that can safely be drawn from these studies is that it is not safe to have inebrates in our midst. It is just as important to isolate them as it is to isolate the insane or the tubercular. Our practice of sentencing them for only ten days for drunkenness, then letting them return to the streets does not commend itself as reasonable. One such man was jailed 105 times...."

These are the words of a responsible citizen of the nation's capitol city, a churchman, a lawyer, and a member of one of the city's important governmental agencies. And these words are spoken after careful study of the city's crime records. Nor is Washington alone in this situation. Every city has its quota of liquor-caused crimes and its accidents in which liquor is a contributing cause. On September 19, a young Chicago mother took her six-months-old baby for a ride in his buggy. One automobile sideswiped another and hurtled the sidewalk. The mother had barely time to shove the buggy aside before the onrushing car crushed her to death. At the police station it was the same old story - a drunken driver!

This is the most destructive war that humanity has ever known. The President tells us it is a war for survival. Military leaders say we shall not win it easily and we may have a long fight. Can we afford such a handicap as the liquor traffic? Can we afford to have liquor-befuddled brains even in minor positions in this war? No one will charge that our leaders are drunkards.

But with the liquor consumption in Washington and throughout the nation what it is, it is difficult not to feel that our forces are at a distinct disadvantage in fighting a foe who uses every opportunity to preach that sobriety is an absolute essential to victory.

UAW-CIO PROPOSES PLAN TO IMPROVE DETROIT MORALE

Recently Life and Time carried stories describing the lack of unity between various groups in Detroit, especially between labor and management and between various racial and religious groups, and the consequent harmful effect upon morale and war production. The United Automobile Worker-CIO on September 1, took cognizance of these stories and without specifically denying them, proposed remedies to improve existing conditions. The suggestions of the automobile workers follow:

1. Reorganize the WPB to eliminate business men who are sabotaging production effort.
2. Establish a supreme economic command to bring order into the field of priorities, raw materials, etc.
3. Setup a system of inventory and allocations that will end the evils of lay-offs and unemployment at the very time the labor movement is urging labor to produce to the utmost.
4. Put a ban on phony publicity stunts through which corporations and a sympathetic press dish out stories of war production that workers in the plants know are not true.
5. Develop quick and large-scale housing. You can't house workers in over-crowded apartments, in shacks and in trailer camps and expect them to go to work full of pep and energy.
6. Make price control work in reality as well as on paper.
7. Create regional offices of the WLB so that workers who have given up the right to strike will not be penalized by having to wait months for the red tape of the overworked Washington board to unravel itself. When you delay adjustment of a grievance that grievance is magnified.
8. Above all, the worker must be made to feel that there is true equality of sacrifice in the war effort.

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